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ABSTRACT

Taking a how-to approach and a British perspective, with numerous lists and examples, this book presents the concept of learning contracts negotiated agreements between learners and instructors to achieve a specific learning goal for university and continuing education teachers. The book is organized in four parts: Part 1 is an introduction; it defines what a learning contract is and how it is used. Eight steps for developing a learning contract are outlined and a case study is provided. In Part 2 the elements of a learning contract are explained, including learning objectives, learning resources and strategies, products, and assessment criteria. Nine examples of various types of learning contracts are given. Part 3 discusses learners' and advisers' needs, and lists some of the advantages and disadvantages of learning contracts as perceived by learners, provides suggestions for addressing staff and learners' issues, and notes some organizational factors to be considered in implementing this strategy. The final section discusses variations in how learning contracts are used, applications for work-based learning, and the limitations of learning contracts. (Contains 50 references.) (CH)

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